



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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20 APRIL 1966

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DAILY BRIEF
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1. South Vietnam

A tenuous truce on the political front continues. Buddhist leaders are still making much of their insistence that the "struggle" will resume its violent phase if the government fails to carry out its promises in good faith.

Tonight the Buddhists in Saigon mounted another rally to dramatize and expand on this warning. A prominent monk claimed to have information that certain unidentified persons were thinking of a "false coup" designed to avoid fulfillment of the regime's election promises.

Buddhist leaders have clearly caught wind of the misgivings about elections as early as August that have been growing among many South Vietnamese since the easing of the crisis. A group of Saigon University law professors, fearing the Communists could use the elections to move in, has urged postponement. Catholics and even some Buddhist laymen are similarly worried.

2. North Vietnam

The leaders in Hanoi continue to show concern over failures of the rank and file to perform up to expectations. Yesterday, Hanoi radio claimed that Ho Chi Minh had used some unusually blunt language at a recent cadre meeting. Ho is said to have called for "harsh disciplinary measures" against a number of party members and cadres, including high-ranking officers, for having "deviated from party directives."

3. Soviet Union

The latest satellite photography shows construction of large single silos for Soviet SS-9 missiles continuing at about the same rate as last year. Deployment of small single silos for the SS-11 also appears to be hitting the 1965 pace after falling off in the fourth quarter of last year.

All told, some 240 single silos have been identified; approximately 125 could become operational by mid-year.

4. Soviet Union

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[redacted] the Soviets are preparing for a new or unusual space event. We are unable at this point to predict what type of operation is being planned, but doubt that a manned flight is scheduled for the near future.

5. Dominican Republic

There have been numerous reports that Dominican extremists are planning to provoke disturbances and anti-US demonstrations next week in connection with the anniversary of last year's revolution. Embassy [redacted] officers are counseling Garcia Godoy on precautionary measures, and the embassy itself is adopting special security procedures. Garcia Godoy will go on nationwide television tonight to appeal for order.

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6. Italy

The Moro government will have Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko in tow for six days during his official visit to Italy which begins tomorrow. The Italians expect the talks to cover such standard political issues as East-West relations and disarmament, but they also hope to get signatures on a broad economic cooperation accord.

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[redacted] the Vatican has no objection to Gromyko meeting with Pope Paul. The embassy believes that such a meeting will probably take place.

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7. Greece

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8. Kenya

President Kenyatta, who has just driven Oginga Odinga from his party and government, has called in the Soviet and Chinese ambassadors [REDACTED]

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More than 30 parliament members have resigned from the ruling party in sympathy with Odinga, and Kenyatta doubtless is trying to make sure that this does not snowball into a dangerous opposition movement.

Odinga's group will probably pick up further support from various disgruntled elements throughout the country. Kenyatta's moderate backers still hold the initiative, however, and are glad to see the dissidents come out in the open where they can be freely attacked for disloyalty.

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